

Getting Beyond Gossipy People

"EGR's: Extra Grace Required", Part 5 of 5
Pastor Vince DiPaola

I) THE PAINFUL TRUTH ABOUT GOSSIPERS

1) Gossipers are unreliable ___CONFIDENCE BETRAYERS___.

"A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret."
(Proverbs 11:13, NIV)

2) Gossipers are inaccurate ___INFORMATION SPREADERS___.

"And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to."
(1 Timothy 5:13b, NIV)

3) Gossipers are off base ___PEOPLE DIVIDERS___.

"A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends."
(Proverbs 16:28, NIV)

4) Gossipers are unhealthy ___GROUP DESTROYERS___.

"For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder."
(2 Corinthians 12:20, NIV)

II) THE CORE TRUTH ABOUT GOSSIPERS

***Gossipers take immoral ___POTSHOTS & SHORTCUTS___
at others to tilt ___RELATIONAL CONFLICT___ in their favor.**

"The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they sink deep into one's heart."
(Proverbs 26:22, NIV&NLT)

"The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him."
(Proverbs 18:17, NIV)

III) GETTING TO THE TRUTH W/ GOSSIPERS

1) ___AVOID___ gossipers and all gossipy conversations.

"A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much."
(Proverbs 20:19, NIV)

"Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down."
(Proverbs 26:20, NIV)

2) ___CONFRONT___ gossip ASAP, before it gets destructive.

***The Matthew 18 conflict resolution process:**

a) First, try to resolve it ___PRIVATELY AND DIRECTLY___.

"... go and show him his fault just between the two of you..." (Matthew 18:15)

b) If that didn't work, involve ___1-2 HIGH CHARACTER PEOPLE___.

"But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established...' "
(Matthew 18:16)

c) If that didn't work, involve ___GODLY LEADERS TO DECIDE___.

"If that person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. If the church decides you are right, but the other person won't accept it, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector."
(Matthew 18:17, NLT)

3) ___ACKNOWLEDGE___ we all have human gossip frailties.

"But Jesus knew what was in their hearts, and he would not let them have power over him. No one had to tell him what people were like. He already knew."
(John 2:24-25, CEV)

4) ___FOCUS___ on pleasing God, not on debating gossipers.

"When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him."
(Proverbs 16:7, NIV)